Message Text

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EO 11652: GDS TAGS: PFOR, SG, GV

SUBJ: SENEGALESE/GUINEAN RELATIONS

1. CHARGE AND AMBASSADOR HARROP PAID COURTESY CALL ON ACT. FOREIGN MIN YOUSSOUPH SYLLA MAY 22. WHEN AMB HARROP INQUIRED ABOUT STATE OF SENEGALESE-GUINEAN RELATIONS, SYLLA SAID GOS SEES VIRTUALLY NO POSSIBILITY FOR MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP AS LONG AS SEKOU TOURE IS IN POWER, AND IT HAS NO PLANS TO PROPOSE EARLY RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. SYLLA ADDED THAT GOS DID NOT HAVE CLOSED MIND ON SUBJECT; FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN YOUTH WING OF GUINEAN PARTY RECENTLY EXTENDED INVITATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN THEIR CONGRESS, GOS HAD PERMITTED TWO SENEGALESE YOUTH ORGANIZATION REPS TO GO TO CONAKRY. GOS REASONING HAD BEEN THAT WHILE IT IMPOSSIBLE NOW TO DEAL WITH TOURE REGIME, PRESENT GOVTS SHOULD BE LAYING FOUNDATION FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP.

2. SYLLA MENTIONED TOURE'S DEMANDS FOR REPATRICONFIDENTIAL

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ATION OF GUINEAN REFUGEES ACCUSED OF ANTI-GOG

ACTIVITY AND SAID GOS ESTIMATED 500,000 GUINEANS NOW IN SENEGAL (ALONG WITH ESTIMATED 80,000 REFUGEES FROM GUINEA BISSAU). ALTHOUGH HIS FIGS. KPEM EXAGGERATED, SYLLA ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE 250,000 GUINEAN REFUGEES IN IVORY COAST, 200,000 IN FRANCE AND OTHERS IN SIERRA LEONE AND LIBERIA FOR A TOTAL OF ONE MILLION GUINEANS OUTSIDE THEIR COUNTRY. SYLLA SAID TOURE'S DEMANDS CONCERNING EXTRADITION HAD BEEN UNACCEPTABLE TO GOS, AND IN ANY EVENT, THERE WAS CATEGORICALLY NO ANTI-GOG POLITICAL ACTIVITY AMONG GUINEAN REFUGEES HERE.

- 3. IN REPLY TO QUESTION ABOUT WHAT EFFECT INDEPENDENCE OF G-B IS HAVING ON GUINEAN-SENEGALESE RELATIONSHIP, SYLLA PREDICTED THAT BILATERAL TENSIONS WILL INCREASE AS TWO GOVTS SEEK INFLUENCE OVER BISSAU. HOWEVER, HIS DESCRIPTION OF THESE TENSIONS WAS ABSTRACT RATHER THAN SPECIFIC, AND GAVE NO INDICATION THAT SUCH TENSIONS LIKELY RESULT SOON IN ANY CLASHES.
- 4. SYLLA RAN THROUGH HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY OF OCCASIONS SINCE MID-FIFTIES ON WHICH TOURE HAS DISAPPOINTED, REBUFFED OR BETRAYED MORE MODERATE AFRICAN LEADERS. HE SAID WHENEVER TOURE HAD MADE COMMON CAUSE WITH EITHER SENGHOR OR HOUPHOUET, MOVE HAD BEEN DESIGNED PRIMARILY TO PLAY LATTER TWO LEADERS OFF AGAINST EACH OTHER.
- 5. AMB. AND CHARGE WERE STRUCK BOTH BY
 FERVOR OF SYLLA'S DISTASTE FOR TOURE AND BY
 MODERATION OF HIS COMMENTS ABOUT DEALING WITH
 GUINEA. WE GOT IMPRESSION THAT SENEGALESE
 LEADERSHIP HAD REACHED CONCLUSION TOURE WAS
 MENTALLY DERANGED AND THAT BEST COURSE WAS
 QUIETLY TO STEER CLEAR OF HIM.
 DAVIS

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